

Habitat Happenings



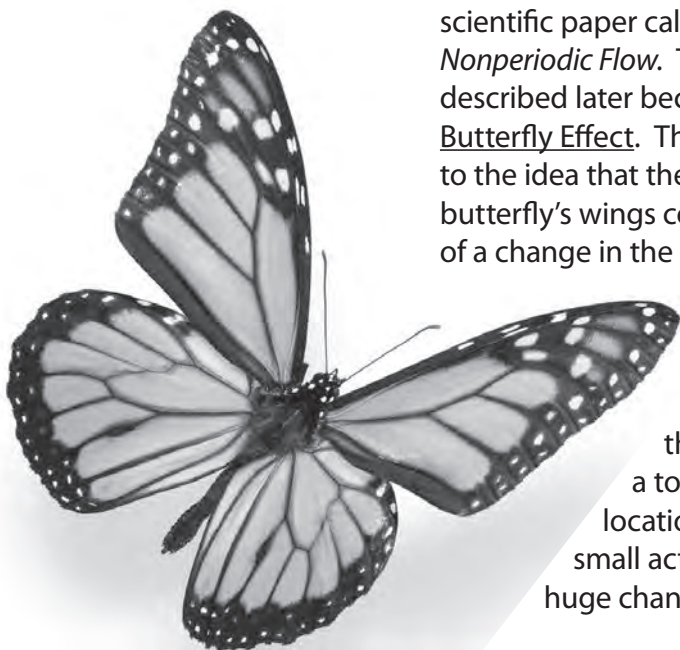
News and Events from **Runge Conservation Nature Center** • September/October 2015

the **Butterfly** *effect*

A storm is brewing off the coast of Brazil. If nothing interferes, it will intensify into a hurricane and hit the panhandle of Florida. But wait, a butterfly in Rio de Janeiro flaps its wings and the resulting air current starts a chain reaction that pushes the storm from its course. The storm ends up dying out over the Atlantic ocean long before it reaches Florida. Butterflies make a difference!

In 1963, Edward Lorenz, mathematician and meteorologist, published a scientific paper called *Deterministic Nonperiodic Flow*. The principles he described later became known as The Butterfly Effect. The phrase refers to the idea that the flap of a single butterfly's wings could create enough of a change in the atmosphere that

it might alter the path of a tornado or delay, accelerate, or even prevent the occurrence of a tornado in another location. In other words, small actions can result in huge changes.



I often think of this phenomenon when I see a butterfly. Butterflies are charismatic. They represent freedom, beauty, or peace; but, aside from their aesthetic values, butterflies are essential to our ecosystems.

Butterflies are indicators of the health of our natural environments. Natural areas rich in butterflies are known to be rich in other insects and wildlife. Butterflies are important pollinators, feed a wide variety of other wildlife, and have been studied to learn more about navigation, pest control, embryology, mimicry, evolution, genetics, and other fields of scientific research.

You can make a difference for butterflies by attracting them to your own backyard. Cultivate native flowers that provide feeding sources for butterfly caterpillars, as well as nectar sources for adult butterflies. Look for ideas of what to plant to attract butterflies throughout this newsletter or call the nature center and ask for the booklet, *Butterfly Gardening & Conservation*.

Never underestimate the importance of butterflies!

—Kathy Cavender,
Manager

Volunteer News

Milestones

Congratulations to the following volunteers for their hours of service:

100 hours – Dan Bernskoetter, Michael Morgart and Laura Richardson

300 hours – Travis Cain

400 hours – Ethan Regan and Erin Skornia

750 hours – Kent Moreland

1250 hours – Kent Hillman

2000 hours – Bruce Berger

3000 hours – Pam Jones

Leadership Training

In late June, twenty-three Conservation Staff Volunteers from Runge Nature Center traveled to Prairie Fork Conservation Area near Fulton for a Leadership Training event with other conservation volunteers from the Central Region. They explored Prairie Fork CA and learned about the Discover Nature Schools program. They heard from a conservation agent about his job duties and the role they play in conservation. Last, but not least, they learned how to throw a spear using an atlatl. It was a fine day!



Exhibitors

Lobby Exhibit



Nature's Needlers Quilt Show

Nature's Needlers, a Runge Nature Center quilting group, is displaying their incredible creations from the 2013 Wetlands and the 2014 Prairies themes. This unique group learns about sewing and Missouri nature simultaneously. Each month a quilt block relating to nature is selected and a program is presented on the chosen topic represented by the pattern. You will be excited and inspired by their creations.

**Mark your calendar for
September 12 and October 15 when
volunteers will be on hand
to answer questions about the
exhibit from 10AM to 2PM.**



Did You Know: Butterfly milkweed is a host plant for the monarch caterpillar and a nectar source for the monarch and many other adult butterflies.

For the Little Ones...

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Babes In The Woods

Children 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus caregiver.

Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver.

Little Acorns PLUS

If you have a child that fits into our Babes program AND one that fits into our Little Acorns program, this is for you. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver. Please provide the ages of your children when making your reservation.



Discover Nature Programs...

- Help Missourians discover and explore nature
- Provide expert instruction and hands-on activities
- Are available statewide

<http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature>



Did You Know:

Spicebush and sassafras are host plants for the spicebush swallowtail butterfly.

September

Registration begins September 1st.

573-526-5544

Flutterby Butterfly

From caterpillar to chrysalis and eventually to a full-grown butterfly, the life of this insect is truly amazing. We will keep our eyes open to the wonders of the butterfly this month. Join us, won't you?

Babes In The Woods

September 11 • Friday • 10 AM
September 22 • Tuesday • 10 AM

Little Acorns

September 9 • Wednesday • 10 AM
September 24 • Thursday • 6 PM

Little Acorns PLUS

September 16 • Wednesday • 10 AM
September 30 • Wednesday • 10 AM

October

Registration begins October 1st.

573-526-5544

Spiders

They show up in nursery rhymes, songs, and children's stories. Thousands can be found in forests and fields. Hundreds may be in your backyard and some can share your house with you! Let's look closer at these tiny animals - spiders - that live with us.

Babes In The Woods

October 13 • Tuesday • 10 AM
October 29 • Thursday • 10 AM

Little Acorns

October 9 • Friday • 10 AM
October 27 • Tuesday • 10 AM

Little Acorns PLUS

October 16 • Friday • 10 AM
October 22 • Thursday • 6 PM

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in." Rachel Carson (1907-1964) naturalist, writer, environmentalist

Runge Calendar of Events - September

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins September 1st.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Nature Photography 101

September 5 • Saturday • 10 AM–Noon
Registration required (18 years and older)

Spend time outdoors and get more out of your time behind the lens with Volunteer Dan Bernskoetter, nature photographer. Learn about the digital camera's shutter speed, aperture, and ISO and how they effect exposure, composition, and depth of field. One hour of actual shooting will be on the Runge Nature Center trails. Bring your camera and dress for the weather. **Early registration starts Monday, August 24.**

Tree Talk

September 10 • Thursday • 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 12 and older)
Alligator skin, ski slope, ghost shape...these are just a few words that help naturalists describe and recognize tree species at Runge. This evening, enjoy a guided walk and learn some fun and easy ways to identify the silent giants along our trails. No organized groups, please.

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179, at 330 Commerce Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri.

BUILDING HOURS:

Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM

Closed Sunday & Monday

TRAIL HOURS:

Open daily 6 AM–9 PM

<http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

Owls of Forest Park

September 10 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM
No registration required (adults)
River Bluffs Audubon Society will be hosting Mark Glenshaw from St. Louis, who will be speaking on the owls of Forest Park, St. Louis. Hear about the owls that have taken up residence in this urban forest.

Adventure Birding and Biking

September 12 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon
Registration required (ages 11 and older, children accompanied by an adult)
Many people don't know that the Katy Trail State Park is a birding hotspot. Join us as we bike the trail from Jefferson City to the Missouri River and back (approximately 10 miles). We will learn about the unusual colonial nests of the cliff swallows and see a variety of summer resident birds. **Meet us at the Jefferson City Trailhead.** Bring your bicycle, helmet, water, and of course, pack your binoculars (or borrow a pair of ours).

What's Going On? Nature's Needlework

September 12 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Enjoy Runge Nature's Needlers' quilt show and learn a little more about quilting AND Missouri's natural communities. Visit with a quilter, make your own designs, and enjoy interactive activities about prairies and wetlands.

Puppet Show: When a Bug Is Not a Bug

September 12 • Saturday • 1–1:30 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Pill Bug admires Missouri's butterflies and other woodland insects and is proud to live among them. Come hear what happens after she learns she's not a bug. After the show, let's go outside and search for live Pill Bugs.

Nature's Needlers

September 17 • Thursday •
10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
Whether you are new to quilting or an old hand, join us for an informative and fun hour featuring the turkey; the ninth block in the "Woodland Tapestry" series.

Missing Naturalist

September 17 • Thursday • 5:30–7 PM
No registration required (all ages)
A volunteer naturalist has swiped an item from our nature center and was last seen on one of our trails with it. Come to the front desk for the clues to find our **Missing Naturalist** and discover what item was taken.

What's Going On? Butterfly Surprise

September 19 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
This Saturday it's about YOU discovering butterflies. The colors, patterns, and behavior of this beloved insect are awaiting you. Some sweep nets will be available for further exploration.

Story Tree on the Trail!

September 19 • Saturday • 10–11 AM
No registration required (all ages)
Visit the nature center and meet a volunteer naturalist eager to share a nature story or two with you. You will be delighted with the stories and activities.

Homeschool: The Private Lives of Primitive Plants

September 22 • Tuesday • 1–3 PM
Registration required (middle and high school students)
We will get an up-close and personal look at primitive plants such as mosses, liverworts, ferns, and horsetails along the trails at Runge. In the process, we will discover the unusual ways that these plants reproduce to make new plants, and follow up at the nature center to learn about their life cycles and how they differ from each other and from flowering plants. Students will take home their own miniature terrarium to grow liverworts.

Connect to Runge Nature Center with a **TEXT**. Receive up to 6 texts a month to learn about events at the Nature Center by texting the word "MDC Runge" to 468311 to subscribe.

Registration begins October 1st.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Teen Club

October 3 • Saturday • 9 AM–5 PM
Registration required (ages 12-18 years)
Travel by MDC vehicles to Eureka, MO and take a private tour of the Endangered Wolf Center. We'll meet Mexican wolves plus other endangered canid species and learn how the center enables some of them to be released to the wild. Afterwards, we will picnic and explore nearby Lone Elk Park or the World Bird Sanctuary. Bring your lunch, water bottle, and wear comfortable shoes for walking. Dress for the weather. Participants must fill out a permission form. **Early registration starts Monday, September 28.**

Missing Naturalist

October 8 • Thursday • 5:30–7 PM
No registration required (all)
A volunteer naturalist has swiped an item from our nature center and was last seen on one of our trails with it. Come to the front desk for the clues to find our **Missing Naturalist** and discover what item was taken.

Migrating Birds

October 8 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM
No registration required (adults)
River Bluffs Audubon Society will be hosting Chris Barrigar, who will be sharing his photos of birds. Many of these birds are found in Cole County and the Binder Lake area, but have travelled from far distances to arrive here.

Adventure Birding

October 10 • Saturday • 8AM–Noon
Registration required (ages 11 and older, children accompanied by an adult)
This will be a birding hike along one of the shorter scenic trails of the Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Depending on the weather, we may find winter residents or migrants. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars (or borrow a pair of ours). We will carpool from Runge.

Puppet Show:

When a Bug Is Not a Bug

October 10 • Saturday • 1–1:30 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Pill Bug admires Missouri's butterflies and other woodland insects and is proud to live among them. Come hear what happens after she learns she's not a bug. After the show, let's go outside and search for live Pill Bugs.

Nature's Needlers

October 15 • Thursday •
10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
Little Miss Muffett may not have appreciated the spider, but it does play an important role in the woodland habitat. This will be the subject of our tenth quilt block in the "Woodland Tapestry" series.

Book Discussion: A Country Year: Living the Questions

October 17 • Saturday • 9:30–10:30 AM
Registration required (adults)
Missouri resident Sue Hubbell, a former university librarian, wrote about the connections she discovered from day-to-day life on her small Ozark farm as a beekeeper. Join our discussion of essays, written from one spring to the next, in her book *A Country Year: Living the Questions*.

What's Going On?

Nature's Needlework

October 17 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Enjoy Runge Nature's Needlers' quilt show and learn a little more about quilting AND Missouri's natural communities. Visit with a quilter, make your own designs, and enjoy interactive activities about prairies and wetlands.

Deer Processing

October 17 • Saturday • 1–4 PM
Registration required (all)
Going deer hunting? Then join us to learn how to skin and process the deer you harvest this year. We'll show you techniques, safety tips, and answer any questions about do-it-yourself processing.

Story Tree on the Trail!

October 17 • Saturday • 1–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Visit the nature center and meet a volunteer naturalist eager to share a nature story or two with you. You will be delighted with the stories and activities.

What's Going On?

Not-So-Spooky Spiders

October 24 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Spiders are far from spooky...in fact, they are spectacular! Crawl on into the nature center, meet a few spiders, and learn why they aren't so spooky after all through activities and displays. Guided spider-searching walk at 1PM.

Firearms Safety for Youth Hunters

October 24 • Saturday • 10 AM–Noon
Registration required (6-10 years old and accompanied by an adult)
Although not a hunter education course, this program can help you make sure your youth are safe during the hunting season. We'll cover the commandments of firearm safety, safe methods for carrying a firearm, and tree stand safety.

Intro to Deer Hunting

October 24 • Saturday • 1:30–4:30 PM
Registration required (6 years and older)
Ever wished you knew how to hunt deer? We will go over the basics of deer hunting for beginners; from tags to scouting and from clothing to hunting methods.

Design with Nature in Mind: Felt Ornament

October 31 • Saturday •
9:30–11:30 AM **OR** 1:30–4 PM
Registration required (women, ages 18 and older)
Fall is a great season for bird observation. If you feed the birds, you have probably watched the junco busily feeding on the ground beneath the feeder. This program will introduce you to the busy junco and give you an opportunity to create one from felt to adorn the inside of your home. Please bring your favorite scissors and a needle or borrow ours.

Backpacks

Get outside and explore

Scout Packs

Runge Conservation Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Becky at 573-526-5544 ext. 3408 for more information or to reserve one of the following packs.

Wolf Cub: Elective #13-Birds

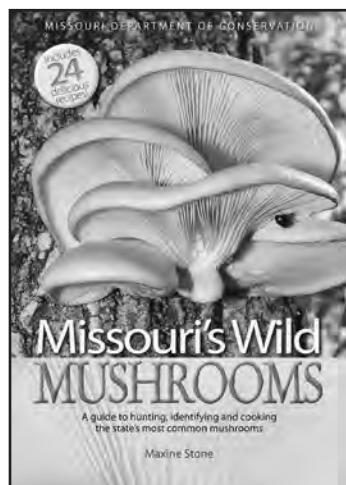
Bear Cub: Achievement #5-Sharing Your World with Wildlife

Webelos: Naturalist and Forester Pack(s). Your choice of packs or a combination pack that has both badge requirements.

Gift Shop...

September and October 20% off featured item.

Missouri's Wild Mushrooms
\$11.20 plus tax*



*The Heritage Card does not apply.



Calling All Hikers

Exploring the great outdoors

Runge has three volunteer-led programs designed to provide opportunities for people of all ages to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center and drive to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Half-Day Discovery Hikes

September 19 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon Registration begins September 1st.
Registration required (ages 8 and older - children must be accompanied by an adult)
Location: Prairie Garden Trust, located in New Bloomfield.
Trail Length: approximately 4 miles Terrain: Significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks.
Focus: Explore the fungus among us with an expert mushroom hunter.

October 17 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon Registration begins October 1st.
Registration required (ages 8 and older - children must be accompanied by an adult)
Location: Rock Bridge State Park, located near Columbia.
Trail Length: approximately 2 miles Terrain: rocky and steep.
Focus: Discover the rockier side of nature with a Department of Natural Resources' staff geologist.

Midweek Trekkers

September 16 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM Registration begins September 1st.
Registration required (adults)
Location: White River Trace Conservation Area, located in Dent County.
Trail Length: 5 miles Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.
Notes: Bring lunch.

October 21 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM Registration begins October 1st.
Registration required (adults)
Location: Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (Gans Creek Trail), located in Columbia.
Trail Length: 7 miles Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.
Note: Bring lunch.

The Hiking Club

September 26 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM Registration begins September 1st.
Registration required (adults)
Location: Huzzah Creek Conservation Area, located in Steelville.
Trail Length: 5-7 miles Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.
Note: Bring lunch.

October 24 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM Registration begins October 1st.
Registration required (adults)
Location: Knob Noster State Park, located in Johnson County.
Trail Length: 7 miles Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.
Note: Bring lunch.

Did You Know: Pussytoes is a host plant for the American painted lady butterfly.

Conservation Kids' Club

A club created for kids 6–12 years who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

Conservation Kids' Club is a club created for **kids 6-12 years** who love to explore nature. When you make your reservation at 573-526-5544, please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

The SHOWDOWN – Butterflies vs. Moths!

September 15 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM *Registration required (September 1 through September 11)*

The showdown begins at 6:30 to settle the dispute. Who is a moth and who is a butterfly? The answers will be revealed tonight. Settle this dispute once and for all!

Spider Sniffing

October 20 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM *Registration required (October 1 through October 16)*

Are you curious about spiders? Want to know more? Bring your flashlight and join us for an outdoor “spider sniffing” adventure. Dress for the weather.

Parents/Guardians! While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members. **Please limit your Little Acorns reservation to one program each month.**



MDC Free Regional Workshops

Cable Restraint Class

This course includes cable restraint rules and regulations, length of season, and other important information. It is a requirement to trap with the cable restraint technique and certification will appear on your Resident Trapping permit.

September 12 • Saturday • 9 AM–12 PM

Location: Missouri Department of Conservation Camdenton Office,
783 Thunder Mountain Road, Camdenton, Missouri.

Required Registration: Contact 573-774-3490. Limit 50 students.



Did You Know: Blue violets are a host plant for the great spangled fritillary butterfly.

What's Going On?

10AM - 2PM

Join us at the nature center on Saturdays from 10AM to 2PM for our "What's Going On?" activities. Here are a few to select from. We hope to see you. No reservations required.

Nature's NEEDLEWORK

September 12 • Enjoy Runge Nature's Needlers' quilt show and learn a little more about quilting AND Missouri's natural communities. Visit with a quilter, make your own designs, and enjoy interactive activities about prairies and wetlands.



Regal Fritillary Butterfly

Butterfly SURPRISE

September 19 • This Saturday's "What's Going On?" is about YOU discovering butterflies. The colors, patterns, and behavior of this beloved insect are awaiting you. Some sweep nets will be available for further exploration.

Did You Know: Black-eyed Susans, goldenrods, asters, and coneflowers are just a few of the native plants that are important nectar sources for many of Missouri's butterflies.

Nature's NEEDLEWORK

October 17 • Enjoy Runge Nature's Needlers' quilt show and learn a little more about quilting AND Missouri's natural communities. Visit with a quilter, make your own designs, and enjoy interactive activities about prairies and wetlands.

Not-So-SPOOKY SPIDERS

October 24 • Spiders are far from spooky...in fact, they are spectacular! These small, eight-legged friends are one of nature's most abundant creatures and are important in the "web" of life. Crawl on into the nature center, meet a few spiders, and learn why they aren't so spooky after all through activities and displays. Guided spider searching walk at 1PM.